they had learnt to value such investments and if another debenture loan was floated by Government, it would very soon be subscribed for in full. Steps should also be taken to popularise the spinning and weaving industry. There were sufficient facilities in the country for cotton cultivation, the climatic condition of South Travancore being best fitted for the growth of cotton. The Member felt sure that, if the Agricultural Department would show some interest in that direction by the establishment of cotton farms, etc., the country could produce all the cotton required for its people. In conclusion, the Member requested the Dewan to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja their sentiments of loyalty and gratitude for the various boons conferred on them.

Dewan's reply.—I quite agree with you in your views in regard to the encouragement to be given to industries. You rightly say that there is a craze for land on account of want of other outlets for capital and that in consequence land is rising in value. It would be a very good thing if other outlets for money could be found and it is for this reason that the Government are endeavouring to encourage industries. I am very glad to hear from you that it would be possible to raise in the country itself the required funds for the extension of the railway. But before a railway is actually constructed, its financial aspect should be thoroughly examined, and for this purpose a detailed survey of the nature of the country, etc., will have to be made. So far as the Trivandrum-Nagercoil extension is concerned, we are going to commence that survey as early as practicable.

Then you refer to spinning and weaving. It would, no doubt, be a very good industry to start if you have the necessary raw material, viz., cotton. In the adjoining Tinnevelly District, cotton is grown in plenty and I believe that the Quilon mills have been re-opened in the hope of getting raw material chiefly from Tinnevelly. If you can get raw material from Tinnevelly, it would be a very good thing to start more spinning and weaving mills here. The next best solution is to grow cotton in this country. So far as I have seen, there is only a very small belt of land [round Cape Comorin fit for the cultivation of cotton. You say that South Travancore is well-suited for the growth of cotton, but I am not very hopeful about it. I am afraid that the climatic conditions are not suitable. The Director of Agriculture is conducting experiments near Puliyara in the Shencottah taluk. I shall ask the Director to investigate the question. I shall have experiments conducted at Neyattinkara or Kuzhittura, and, if they are successful, it would be a great advantage.

I shall be very glad to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja your sentiments of loyalty and devotion.

148. Public Service.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) represented that the public service of the State stood in need of reform.

At present it was not possible for Travancoreans to become Dewans of the State. If this was due to lack of competent men, the expenditure of Rs. 33 lakhs incurred on education in the country stood self-condemned. The fault, however, lay not in the educational system, but in the fact that graduates were entertained on an initial salary of Rs. 40 or Rs. 45 and gradually promoted on the basis of seniority in service. By the time one became a Dewan Peishkar, one attained 55 years of age and had to retire. The institution of a Travancore Civil Service Examination would solve the difficulty. Riding should form an indispensable test for that examination. Persons passing the Travancore Government Service Examination and possessing family status and character should be started on a pay of about Rs. 150 per mensem and promoted according to efficiency. They would then be able to rise to the highest post in the land. He then made the following suggestions:—

(1) Students should be sent abroad for further studies on loan scholarships.

(2) The posts of Account Officer and the Financial Secretary should be held by two different officers.

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(3) Appointments should be filled on some definite principle and the policy pursued in the matter of filling up the place of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies by the appointment of several persons in quick succession should be abandoned.

(4) Executive and judicial officers should be posted at a particular place only for three years, at the end of which period they should be given a transfer. This principle might be followed in the appointment of Secretaries to Government as well.

(5) Public servants should not be removed from service except on clear evidence.

(6) No extension of service should be granted to an officer after completing his 55th year of age, as in this hot climate a person who was past 50 could not satisfactorily discharge his duties. Moreover, the retirement of officers should conduce to the formation through them of more efficient and useful public opinion in the land.

(7) The system of paying pensions to retired officers might be substituted by a system of bonus in lieu of a portion of the pension as in other countries. This would ensure the comfort of the family to which the officer belonged, and do away with the difficulty of granting compassionate allowance to the officer's widow and children. Though the system of compassionate allowance was good in itself, its proper distribution was very difficult in practice.

(8) The salaries of low-paid subordinates should be enhanced and the cost on account of the public service should be fixed at a certain percentage of the total expenditure of the State and distributed among the various departments, the proportion obtaining in other countries similarly situated being taken as the basis.

(10) The pay and position of the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner should be such as to qualify him for the Dewan's place.

(11) Examination qualification, efficiency bar, and a system of Competetive Service Examinations should be introduced in order to do away with the unhealthy racial animosity now observable in the country which was entirely due to the scramble for the loaves and fishes of office.

Dewan's reply.—I thank you for the very important suggestions that you have made. All your suggestions will be duly considered.

Mr. P. N. Ramaswami Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram) began by saying that the name of the present Dewan would ever be associated with the history of popular institutions of the State, and with the beneficent reforms introduced in the Legislative Council, the Popular Assembly and the Municipal Council, the measures taken to separate the Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department and his endeavours to root out official corruption in the matter of the registry of Sirkar waste lands. He hoped that, during the remaining years of his administration, attempts would be made to increase the financial powers of the representative institutions and to create useful bodies like the Village Boards, District Boards and Irrigation Panchayats.

As regards the public service, the question of enhancement of salaries should be considered only when efficient men were not available to fill posts on the present scales of pay. The reform now being introduced of methodising the work in certain Departments was a wholesome one. But the best method of keeping up efficiency in the public service was to modify the means of recruitment. The higher ranks of the service especially should be filled only after instituting competitive examinations. The practice of introducing communal representation in the service should, if at all, be confined to the lower ranks. Retrenchment should begin at the top and not affect low-paid clerks and peons. The Member then suggested (1) the institution of a Travancore Civil Service Examination, (2) the desirability of placing Sirkar Vakils and Prosecuting Inspectors under the control of the Peishkars, (3) the suspension and dismissal of officers in pursuance of certain fixed rules, (4) the recruitment of the Magistracy only from the ranks of clerks

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having at least one year's experience as bench clerks or lawyers, (5) the allotment of grants to the Professors of the college to enable them to visit other colleges and attend Conferences, and (6) the utilisation of indigenous talent in a larger measure than hitherto.

Dewan's reply.—I thank you for your suggestions. They will receive the attention of Government.

149. Some suggestions for improving the condition of the Muslim community.

Mr. K. A. Picha Bava Sahib (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) first represented that the Koran, highly revered by Mahomedans, should be removed from courts of law, as they were being handled there by members of all communities without purifying their body and mind.

He then requested the Government to consider favourably the following suggestions for the improvement of his community:—

(1) the appointment of two more Mahomedan members on the Economic Development Board in view of the fact that the members of the community had a large share in the trade and industry of the land;

(2) the entertainment of more Mahomedans in the public service;

(3) the importation of qualified Mahomedans from outside for appointment as Professors and tutors in the College and to fill a Judge's place in the High Court;

(4) the extension of the half-fee concession to Mahomedans in the Commercial School at Alleppey;

(5) the strict enforcement of the order of Government sanctioning an Arabic Munishi in all schools where not less than 25 Mahomedan pupils studied ;

(6) the teaching of Malayalam side by side with Arabic in Arabic schools;

(7) the sanction of small grants to the Arabic Patasalas, Mahomedan Night Schools and the Young Men's Mahomedan Association Reading Room at Alleppey;

(8) the introduction of compulsory education among Mahomedans in important Mahomedan centres;

(9) the holding of Muslim conferences in important Muslim centres and the holding of a Muslim educational conference once in two years to consider the ways and means of improving the education of the community;

(10) the institution of a Mahomedan electorate with right to return two members to the Legislative Council and four members to the Popular Assembly;

(11) the appointment of one Mahomedan each as a Judge and a Magistrate in all Panchayat Courts and in Bench Magistrates' Courts ;

(12) the abolition of the Marumakkathayam law of inheritance prevailing among Mahomedans in certain parts of the State and the substitution of the Mahomedan law of inheritance instead; and

(13) the declaration of the four important Mahomedan festival days of Mohurum, Barawafat, Ramzan and Bakrid as public holidays.

Mr. N. A. Navurkani Rowther (Member, Nominated) stated that, for improving the condition of the Muslim community, it was necessary that its members should be adequately represented on the various popular institutions in the country. He requested that six members be appointed to the Popular Assembly, three to the Legislative Council, two to each Municipality and a sufficient number to the Panchayat Courts and Bench Magistrates' Courts on the basis of the Mahomedan population in each locality.

The necessity for appointing a Mahomedan Judge in the Travancore High Court was then urged and the Member suggested that, in view of the paucity of competent hands in the State, the services of a qualified Mahomedan might be secured from British India.

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